Mr. Speaker, I thank

the ranking member for yielding me

time.

Mr. Speaker, centuries from now,

when future generations look back,

they will see that September 11, 2001,

was a day like no other in our history.

A bright, late summer morning on our

Nation’s East Coast was shattered by

unspeakable acts of war against all

Americans and all freedom-loving people.

We fear that these cowardly attacks

have claimed more than 5,000 innocent

men, women and children, making this

the deadliest day ever on American

soil.

At Pearl Harbor, 2,300 perished; at

Antietam, 4,000 fell in a day; and during

our entire 8-year struggle for independence,

4,500 patriots gave their lives

for freedom.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the

Japanese admiral who planned that

treachery remarked, ‘‘I fear all we have

done is awaken a sleeping giant and

filled him with terrible resolve.’’

Mr. Speaker, our national resolve expressed

in the resolution before us is

equally determined, and those responsible

for these depraved attacks have

every reason to fear it.

Under the authority granted by Article

I of the Constitution, Congress has

declared war only 11 times. We do not

make a formal declaration of war

today. However, in fulfillment of our

constitutional duty and as contemplated

under the War Powers Resolution,

Congress does today authorize

the President to use all necessary and

appropriate force against those nations,

organizations or persons who

planned, authorized, committed or

aided these horrific attacks.

Importantly, Mr. Speaker, we also

authorize the President to use all necessary

and appropriate force against

those who have harbored such organizations

and persons.

A generation ago, one of this Nation’s

greatest friends, whose mother

was an American herself, rallied free

people against the darkness and despair

descending on the European continent.

So said Winston Churchill.

Victory is our aim today; not over

nations or persons, but over terrorism.

However long and hard the road may

be, we must cut out and destroy this

cancer which plagues civilized society.

When future generations of Americans

look back, let them see that we

answered this challenge with courage

and with unity. Let them see that we

took decisive action that made the

world safer for this generation and for

generations to come, and let them see

that September 11, 2001, a day like no

other in our history, marked the turning

point in the war on terrorism.

In bracing us for war some 60 years

ago, Roosevelt said,